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*Les Principes Biologiques de l'Evolution Sociale.* By RENÉ WORMS.  
(Paris: Giard and Brière, 1910. 2.50 fr.)

This brief monograph by Dr. René Worms discusses the application of biological principles in social evolution. Dr. Worms is chiefly known in English speaking countries as the author of *Organisme et Société* and as the head of the French school of organicists in sociology. He is also director of the *Revue Internationale de Sociologie* and secretary general of the International Institute of Sociology.

In his later writings Dr. Worms has not particularly emphasized the organic analogy, and, as he himself says, he sees many elements of value in approaching sociology from other sides than that of the organic analogy. In this monograph he takes up the general principles of biology, such as adaptation, heredity, and selection, and shows how these principles also apply in social evolution, regardless of the question of any analogy. He is undoubtedly upon firm ground in pointing out the social consequences of these biological principles. His thought is clear and at the same time suggestive. On the whole the monograph covers fairly well, though in a somewhat elementary way, the whole field of biological sociology, and must be considered an important contribution to that aspect of social theory. C. A. E.

*Phasen der Kultur-und Richtungslinien des Fortschritts.* Soziologische Ueberblicke. By F. MÜLLER-LYER. (Munich: J. F. Lehmanns Verlag, 1908. 6 m.)

It is often said that sociology as a science has not been taken up by German scholars and has made no progress in German scientific circles. In opposition to this view we have the fact that many of the most recent and most valuable contributions to sociology have come from German sources. The recent works of Simmel, Barth, Ratzenhofer, to say nothing of those of older writers such as Gumpłowicz and Schaeffle show that German students are doing their full share in the development of the new science. Besides the interest in sociology shown by German university professors there has also of recent years been a growing

interest on the part of university trained men who are more or less associated with the Socialist party in Germany. It is probable that the author of the book under our notice belongs to this latter school of thinkers. He has certainly succeeded in producing a text in sociology which deserves the attention of all students of the social sciences.

As the title of the work indicates, it attempts to present in outline both the great steps in human progress and a scientific theory of social evolution. The first part of the work is an Introduction to Sociology. Part 2 deals with the Evolutional History of Food, Tools, Clothing and Shelter; part 3, with the Evolutional History of Work. In part 4 the causes of progress in its various phases are discussed. In part 5 is a survey of the cultural epochs, while part 6 is a philosophical discussion of the meaning of civilization and of progress.

It is evident from this brief summary of the contents of the work that only a portion of it is pure or theoretical sociology. Parts 2 and 3 are very largely "culture history," and portions may even be regarded as economic history. The author approaches the problem of sociology, therefore, through cultural anthropology and economic history. This historical portion of the work is exceptionally well done and will be found of great service to the sociologist and economist alike.

The theoretical portions of the work, namely parts 1, 4, and 5, do not seem to the writer of this notice to be equally valuable with parts 2 and 3. Dr. Müller-Lyer accepts Marx's "materialistic conception of history" as an adequate scientific formulation of the main principle of social evolution. Indeed one cannot help but suspect that this text in sociology was written largely to defend that questionable sociological doctrine. The reviewer, however, feels that Dr. Müller-Lyer has not succeeded in making Marx the Darwin of sociology. This brings to light the main defect of the work from a theoretical standpoint; that is, it lacks an adequate basis in psychology. The psychological method in approaching the problems of sociology is made little or no use of in the book. Indeed the psychological point of view is scarcely evident, which is what we should expect in one who accepts the materialistic conception of history as an adequate formula to cover social evolution.

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